

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A system for securing transactional data transmitted over a wireless network in a store comprising:

 a bogus message generator coupled to a wireless terminal in a store, the bogus message generator for generating bogus messages to be transmitted by the wireless terminal;

 a store host computer for receiving transactional and bogus messages from the wireless terminal; and

 a communication parameter regulator for measuring a communication parameter on the store host computer, the communication parameter regulator operable to activate the bogus message generator so that the bogus message generator is activated in accordance with the measured communication parameter.

Claim 2. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

 the communication parameter regulator is a load balancer for measuring dead space in a communication bandwidth between the store host computer and the wireless terminal.

Claim 3. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the bogus message generator terminates bogus message generation in response to a bogus message time expiration.

Claim 4. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the bogus message generator terminates bogus message generation in response to a bona fide transaction occurring at the wireless terminal.

Claim 5. (original) The system of claim 2 wherein the load balancer generates a bogus message request in response to the computed dead space being greater than a threshold.

Claim 6. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the wireless terminal further comprising:

an encryption module for encrypting the bogus messages transmitted to the store host computer.

Claim 7. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein the store host computer further comprising an encryption module for decrypting the bogus messages received from the wireless terminal.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A method for securing transactional data communicated over a wireless network in a store comprising:

determining dead space intervals on a store host computer based upon a load on the store host computer;

generating bogus transactional messages for transmission over a wireless communication network for communicating data between the a store host computer and a terminal located in a store; and

transmitting the bogus transactional messages over the wireless communication network during the dead space intervals.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein further comprising:

the method further comprises monitoring communication traffic at a store host computer; and

the step of determining comprises computing the dead space intervals for transmission of the bogus transactional messages from the monitored communication traffic.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

generating a bogus request message in response to the computed dead space being less than a threshold.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
activating the bogus transactional message generation in response to receiving the
bogus request message.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
terminating the bogus transactional message generation in response to a bogus message
timer expiration.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein further
comprising:
the step of generating comprises generating the bogus transactional messages at a
terminal; and
the method further comprises terminating the bogus transactional message
generation in response to a bona fide transaction occurring ~~occurring~~ at the a terminal
where the bogus transactional message generation is occurring.

Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
parsing a received transactional message at a store host computer;
detecting a bogus transactional message received at a store host computer; and
discarding the detected bogus transactional message so the store host computer
does not process the bogus transactional message for transaction approval.

Claim 15. (original) A point-of-sale terminal for communicating transactional
messages over a wireless communication network to a store host computer comprising:
a bogus message generator for generating bogus transactional messages; and
a transmitter coupled to the bogus message generator for sending the generated
bogus transactional messages to a store host computer.

Claim 16. (original) The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator generates bogus transactional messages in accordance with parameters received in a bogus request message.

Claim 17. (original) The terminal of claim 16 wherein the bogus message generator generates the bogus transactional messages in accordance with a message length parameter received in the bogus request message.

Claim 18. (original) The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator includes a bogus message timer and the bogus message generator generates the bogus transactional messages until the bogus message timer expires.

Claim 19. (original) The terminal of claim 18 wherein the bogus message generator sets the bogus message timer in accordance with a bogus time generation value received in a bogus request message.

Claim 20. (original) The terminal of claim 15 wherein the bogus message generator terminates the bogus transactional message generation in response to a bona fide transaction.

Claim 21. (new) A communication parameter regulator for a wireless store host network comprising:

- a microprocessor programmed to
 - determine the number of transaction messages received at a receiving component,
 - estimate the load on the receiving component,
 - compare the estimated load to a predetermined load, and
 - generate a bogus message request.

Claim 22. (new) The communication parameter regulator of claim 21, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to

generate a bogus message request for delivery to a transmitter operable to transmit a bogus message to the receiving component.

Claim 23. (new) The communication parameter regulator of claim 21, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to estimate the load on the receiving component by:

 using the average length of time required for the receiving component to process the received transaction messages; and

 using the average time between receipt of transaction messages by the receiving component.

Claim 24. (new) The communication parameter regulator of claim 21, wherein the microprocessor is further programmed to generate a bogus message request comprising a plurality of parameters to be used by a bogus message generator in generating a bogus message.

Claim 25. (new) The communication parameter regulator of claim 24, wherein the plurality of parameters comprises one or more parameters from the group consisting of:

 the length of the bogus message;

 the number of bogus messages to be generated;

 the amount of time during which the bogus messages are to be generated;

 bogus account numbers; and

 bogus customer data.